



News From

Maggie Brooks

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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BROOKS CALLS ON CITIZENS TO ASSIST WITH LOCAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

PROCLAIMS SEPTEMBER PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks appealed to local residents when she sounded a "call to service," asking them to help with efforts to protect our community and enhance emergency preparedness. At a press conference held at the Ogden Town Office of Emergency Preparedness, 269 Ogden Center Road, Brooks proclaimed September as National Preparedness Month in Monroe County in collaboration with agencies and municipalities all across the nation. Brooks outlined the mission of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and applauded Ogden's village of Spencerport for its local CERT Program.

"In the post 9-11 world, Americans must be willing to capture the spirit of selflessness and commit to playing an active part in homeland security," said Brooks. "Patriotism requires more than lip service; it is not a spectator sport. Vigilance and participation are the key ingredients to the maintenance of any free and safe society. That is why I urge citizens to join Community Emergency Response Teams like those being formed in Spencerport. I am pleased to join with officials across the nation today as we declare September National Preparedness Month."

The mission of the CERT program is to make the community safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds through education, training and coordinated volunteer service.

President George W. Bush created the national Citizen Corps initiative in 2002 under the umbrella of USA Freedom Corps. The Community of Monroe Citizen Corps (CMCC) was established locally following the area's April 2003 ice storm. Its programs include the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which trains citizen as responders in the case of a disaster.

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The goal of the CERT program is to train residents of towns and neighborhoods in basic emergency response skills. Participants will receive 24 hours of training in: disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, disaster medical operations (Part I & Part II), light search and rescue, CPR and AED, disaster psychology and team organization.

The CERT training at the PSTF is being hosted by MCC's new Homeland Security Management Institute and will be conducted in partnership by the County of Monroe, the Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the Community of Monroe Citizen Corps – Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

“In the case of an emergency that overwhelms or delays the community’s professional responders, trained CERT members can partner with the American Red Cross and give critical support, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize volunteers at the site of the event,” said Becky McCorry in a published statement. McCorry is the Director of Disaster Services for the Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross. “These emergency skills can help save or sustain lives until additional help arrives,” said McCorry. McCorry also serves as Co-Chair of the local CMCC Council.

“After last year’s ice storm, the Northeast blackout, and any number of snow storms, fires and other emergency situations, Monroe County residents have always asked “How can I help?,” said Muffy Meisenzahl, Director of Monroe County’s Office of Emergency Preparedness and Co-Chair of the CMCC Council. “Now there is an answer – the Community of Monroe Citizen Corps.”

For more information about CERT and the Citizen Corps Programs, visit the national website at www.citizencorps.gov/programs.

For more information about Spencerport’s CERT program contact Ogden’s Preparedness Manager Jeff Tewksbury at (585) 352-2183 or pager (585) 529-2034.

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*Media Inquiries - Contact:
Department of Communications at (585) 428-2380
See us on the web at www.monroecounty.gov*
